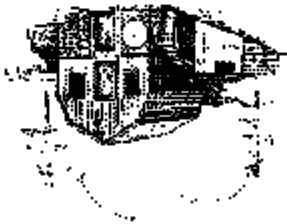


RIST FROM THE MILL FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS
COLVIN RUN MILL HISTORIC SITE
August 2004

Garden Guests -- Swallowtail Butterflies

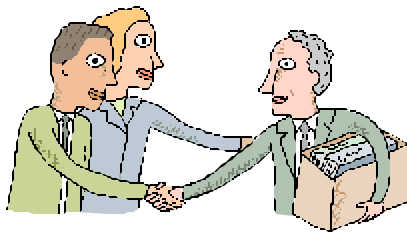
What are those caterpillars munching their way through the fennel (the feathery fern-like plants in the herb and vegetable gardens)? Should we kill them or protect them? A little research on the internet revealed the answer.

Those bumpy caterpillars that we have observed are black swallowtail butterfly larvae. Fennel is their favorite food. When the caterpillar is ready to pupate, it spins a strand of silk to the stem of the fennel, attaches itself at the lower end and then sheds its skin to become a green chrysalis. The adult emerges as a swallowtail butterfly. Unfortunately, swallowtail caterpillars are a favorite prey of wasps and not many survive to become butterflies.



SPOOM Conference September 24-25

Visit Mills of the Appalachian Trail at the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills (SPOOM) Conference on Friday, September 24 and Saturday, September 25 in Pigeon Forge, TN. This is your chance to meet other mill enthusiasts, attend some workshops, and visit area mills. Sound interesting? For more information, check out www.spoom.org or see the information posted on the bulletin board in the volunteer room



Welcome New Volunteers

Two new volunteers have filled our ranks. Bonnie Fry is taking a break from her nurse practitioner career and is looking forward to learning about the mill and interpreting to visitors. She is busy following tours and reading the manual to prepare for her interpretive docent career.

Kerry Roy is a freelance writer between assignments. She enjoyed being a story reader at the library and was intrigued by the prospect of being an interpretive docent at Colvin Run Mill. Kerry has jumped in with both feet and already led a tour with visitors of several different ages and levels of comprehension. With Marjorie Lundegard's help, Kerry made it a pleasant experience for all.



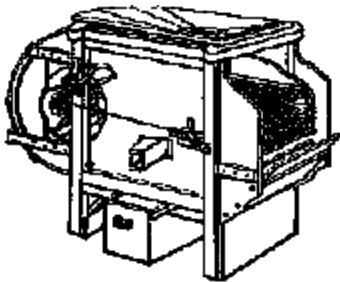
Congratulations

John and Mary Dettra are cooing over their new granddaughter. Born July 27, Peighton Dettra weighed in at 8lbs 9oz. Mary is sure to have some super pictures very soon.



From the Miller's Corner A Whole Lot of Shakin' Goin' On by Dawn Kehr

In mid-July an old fanning mill, possibly from the late 1800s, came to life again when Mason Maddox, Kevin Gawthrop and Pat McGuire began using it to clean corn and wheat before grinding for cornmeal, grits and flour. The fanning mill, formerly stored on the third floor of the mill, was deaccessioned from Historic Collections and moved to the first floor for Mason and Pat to repair for use. Pat made four new fan blades using an original as a pattern. Rather than using a crank to move the fan and screens, he put on a flywheel and then made a new handle for the flywheel. He also made new frames for the screens and raised the sides of the boxes that hold clean grain so that the grain would not bounce out of the boxes.



A fanning mill or winnowing machine cleans chaff, dirt and other light impurities from grain. Grain is fed into the hopper at the top of the machine and passes through several sieves from the uppermost which is coarse into the lower ones of varying degrees of fineness. Different sizes of screen are used for different grains. The object is to move the grain through the sieves, each sieve having an opportunity to take out some refuse. The grain for grinding passes out the bottom of the fanning mill into boxes. The fan blades blow out the waste from the machine through the loading door on the first floor of the mill.

The fanning mill that we are using is not known to be original to the mill but it was manufactured by H. M. Baker in Winchester, Virginia. I may have more information about this mill at a later time.

A Different Point of View By Iris Schwartz

Ken Asher and I joined the Mill Field Trip on Saturday, May 22, where we had the opportunity to visit three mills in the northeastern Maryland/southeastern Pennsylvania area. We managed to explore the locale and try out a new bicycle trail in the area afterward. The mill tours themselves were interesting not only from the standpoint of the differences in the mills, but the ways in which the mills were presented to visitors and the countryside that surrounded the mills



We had a personalized tour of Eden Mill in Pylesville, Maryland, by Roland Becker, whose enthusiasm never waned throughout our tour. Aside from the summer interns, he leads most of the mill tours there—the other volunteers prefer the nature center and Roland has a fear of snakes. That being said, he had to tiptoe around the snake in the generator room during the tour. One benefit of this tour was not only Roland's enthusiasm, but also his inventiveness.

There was a small "hands-on" educational area that included a very old mortar and pestle, a hand grinding mill and a corn sheller. Roland has even rigged up an automatic garage door opener to demonstrate the bags of grain being transported to the mill's upper story. Mary Allen had a chance to "lift" the bag of grain demonstrating the device. Mason Maddox was also on the trip and was able to offer a few pointers about the mill equipment, which Roland was very interested in.



In fact, Roland, who helped Mary to organize the tours of the first two mills, met up with us at the Cross Mill, the second mill on our tour. This very small mill is carefully watched over by a neighbor who not only stored about 50% of the mill's equipment after it was shut down, but today tends the grounds around the mill. This effort is much appreciated by the volunteer corps. In fact, we saw Mr. Kefauver finishing up the mowing when we arrived.

Cross Mill is very small and compact compared to Eden Mill and Colvin Run Mill. And the volunteers had a number of very good displays, including one that provided an explanation of millstones, and the reasons for the patterns and grooves that are cut by the stone dresser.



We almost didn't go to the third mill at Muddy Creek Forks because it was closed due to fear of structural damage caused by some recent flooding. Some of us did drive over, however, and observed the mill, miller's house, general store, and railroad tracks just from walking about---from the outside. It will certainly be nice to go back to visit when they reopen.

It is really eye opening to visit other mills and to learn about the particular histories and challenges to renovating a mill. None of the three mills that we visited were operational as far as grinding, so it makes one feel grateful that we have an operational mill here at Colvin Run.

Oh, and we encountered a surprise during our afternoon bicycle ride from York to Hanover, Pennsylvania on the northern section of the York County Heritage Trail, a new multi-use rail trail. We spotted a mill for sale. Actually, we saw a realtor's sign advertising a mill for sale and were not quite sure where the mill was. There was a building along the trail, but was it really a mill? We rode up and down the road, and didn't think so. It really piqued our interest, so we looked it up on our return home --- and found it in the mill real estate for sale section of the SPOOM Web site. There it was, pictures and all. Odd, when a building is covered with ivy, and the water source is not very evident, just how hard it is to spot a mill. Bu there it was in the photos, the Seitzville Mill, just as we saw it. Looking for a new owner:

Three story mill built in 1866 and a 4 bedroom 1½ bath brick house located on 2+ acres along the York County Heritage Rail Trail. Excellent opportunity for antique lover, contractor, personal residence with ample storage or home occupation.

Now, just how much are they asking for that mill, do you think?

Arti-Facts from Dawn Who Is That Little Old Lady?



Recently my mother's home in Pennsylvania was readied for sale and several of my siblings and I gathered to take care of her personal belongings and furniture. She had among her possessions hundreds of photographs dating from the early 1900s to the present, many of them unidentified as to either date or name. Which of my mother's more than 50 grandchildren and great-grandchildren is the recent photo identified only with a first and middle name? Is one of the unidentified little old ladies my Aunt Ola? Is the little boy in the knickers my father? When I came back to Virginia, I felt an urgent need to name and date the hundreds of photographs that I own. I hope that you, too, will identify relatives and friends in your photographs so that your family heritage will be passed on with certainty.

I am reprinting from the Fairfax County Park Authority Collections web page an article by Jeanne Niccolls

titled, “Preserving Your Favorite Family Photos.” Her article not only advises us to date and identify photos and also offers information on how to safely take care of our photos for the future.

Preserving Your Favorite Family Photos **by Jeanne Niccolls**

What's the best way to take care of your cherished family photographs, old and new? In most family photographs the image is captured in a light sensitive substance that rests in a binder layer on top of a primary paper support. Exposure to bright light, high heat, high humidity and acidic materials will cause them to fade and deteriorate; light sensitive color photographs are especially prone to fading. So protect them from exposure to high levels of visible and ultraviolet light by displaying them away from direct sunlight. Handle them with care—with clean hands and by the edges. Inspect them for pests. Display and store photographs, photo albums and negatives in rooms where both the temperature and humidity in your home are controlled and fairly stable, not in a hot attic or damp basement. Keep them cool and dry.



Frame photographs for display using acid-free mats and ultraviolet filtering glass or Plexiglas. Archival materials for mounting framed photographs are readily available from professional frame shops, craft stores, and preservation supply companies.

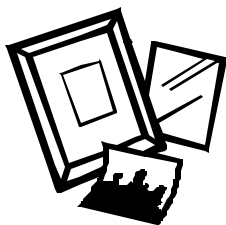
Store photographs in archival albums, folders or boxes. Look for acid-free papers and albums, archival quality adhesives, and page protectors and mounts made of polyethylene, polypropylene, Mylar Type D or archival polyester. Avoid using magnetic or self-adhesive albums, glassine envelopes, papers and mounts with high wood pulp content, and most commercial tapes and adhesives.

Many old photograph albums are acidic and contribute to the deterioration of the photographs they contain. You can remove the prints from the old album and put them in an archival one or (especially if removing them would damage the photos) interleave each album page with an acid-free paper cut to the size of the page. Albums are a good way to protect photos from light and dust, while at the same time arranging and labeling them so that they can be viewed and enjoyed over the years.

If you have a favorite old family photo album that is scratched, torn or stained, you can take it to a paper conservator for repair. Or you can take it to a professional photographer who can make an improved copy, often removing or covering cracks, tears and stains. Displaying a good copy and storing the original is an excellent way to preserve your most valuable family images.

Last but not least, remember how often you've wondered who the people are in one of your old family pictures and when and where it was taken? Using a soft pencil (a No.2 pencil is appropriate – Dawn) on the back or acid-free archival labels, don't forget to identify the people and date your new family photographs!

There are several other internet links at the end of Jeanne's article if you go to the Fairfax County Park Authority's web page and view the Collections – Object Care Tips site



I have a variety of resources for acid-free materials for photograph storage and identification. You may want to view several videos by Maureen Taylor from the Fairfax County Library that give information about photograph care. Ms. Taylor has also written several books about photograph albums and scrapbooks as well as identification and preservation of photos.